

3 June 2004

Jeff Koenings
Director
Department of Fish & Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Mr. Koenings:

Last week your **James West** gave a talk, to a general and appreciative audience, on deterioration of herring eggs here and elsewhere. He discussed the evidence to date and various hypotheses relating to the egg mortality. He then solicited counsel on local marine events and trends that might help explain the puzzling development.

I'm no marine biologist, but as a former research administrator I applaud Mr. West's depth of scientific knowledge and his remarkable ability to lead an audience through an arcane topic.

Most of us find it difficult to convey technical information to non-science audiences, while avoiding pressing our own views on solutions to resource problems. Mr. West did these things remarkably well while conveying his considerable enthusiasm for his topic.

I applaud Mr. West and wish him success in a fascinating research venture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Don Flora".

Donald F. Flora